

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. *(Previously Presented)* For use in a communication system where connections are established between an external network and users of mobile radio subscriber units by way of a radio access network and each established connection is handled by an associated data processing circuit, a method comprising:

detecting a failure in a data processing circuit indicating that the data processing circuit is not functioning and thus can no longer handle established connections;

identifying one or more established mobile radio subscriber unit connections being handled by the failed data processing circuit; and

sending a message identifying the one or more identified mobile radio subscriber unit connections,

wherein each mobile radio user connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the mobile radio subscriber unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

2. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

releasing the one or more mobile radio subscriber unit connections identified in the message because the failed data processing circuit is not functioning.

3. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining one or more mobile radio subscriber connections not determined to be handled by the failed data processing circuit.

4. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a signaling connection associated with a mobile radio subscriber unit affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning.

5. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, wherein the mobile radio subscriber unit uses plural connections during a communications session.

6. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

generating a list identifying the one or more mobile radio subscriber units and one or more mobile radio subscriber unit connections affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning, and

wherein the message includes the list.

7. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 1, further comprising:

generating a list identifying the one or more mobile radio subscriber units affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning without identifying mobile radio subscriber unit connections, and

releasing all subscriber unit connections associated with the one or more mobile radio subscriber units in the list.

8. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claims 6 or 7, further comprising:

indicating in the list whether a signaling connection associated with a mobile radio subscriber unit affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning should be released or maintained.

9. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 6, wherein the list includes identifiers for the one or more mobile radio subscriber units affected by the failed data processing circuit no

longer functioning and for the one or more mobile radio subscriber unit connections affected by the failed data processing circuit no longer functioning.

10. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 9, wherein when the list does not include connection identifiers, all connections for a mobile radio subscriber unit are released.

11. *(Original)* The method in claim 1, wherein the message is sent to one or more other nodes.

12. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 11, wherein the node is one of an external network node, a core network node, a radio access network node, and a mobile radio subscriber unit, and wherein the node includes multiple processor boards, each processor board includes multiple data processing circuits.

13. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 1, wherein the message is ~~a control signaling message~~ sent by a radio access network node directed to a core network node.

14. *(Currently Amended)* The method in claim 13, wherein the message is sent using an existing ~~radio access network control signaling message~~ from a radio network controller node to an SGSN in the core network.

15. *(Previously Presented)* For use in a communication system where connections are established between an external network and users of radio subscriber units by way of a radio access network and each established connection is controlled by an associated data processing device, a method comprising:

detecting a failure in a data processor device in a node where the failed data processing device is no longer functional and thus can no longer control any established connections, and

sending a message identifying the failed data processing device to one or more other nodes,

wherein the one or more other nodes release radio subscriber unit connections associated with the identified failed data processing device,

wherein each radio user connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the mobile radio user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

16. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 15, further comprising:

assigning a corresponding network address to each of multiple data processing devices in the node, and

when a radio subscriber unit connection is established, sending an address for each data processing device associated with the radio subscriber unit connection to one or more other nodes,

wherein the message includes the network address of the failed data processing device.

17. *(Original)* The method in claim 16, wherein the network address is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

18. *(Previously Presented)* The method in claim 15, further comprising:

detecting a failure of a board containing plural data processing devices such that none of the data processing devices on the board can control an established connection,

wherein the message identifies the addresses of the plural data processing devices on the board, and

wherein the one or more other nodes release radio unit connections associated with the failed board.

19. *(Original)* The method in claim 15, wherein the node is one of an external network node, a core network node, a radio network node, and a radio subscriber unit.

20. *(Original)* The method in claim 15, further comprising:

generating a list identifying one or more radio subscriber units affected by the detected failure, and

wherein the message includes the list.

21. *(Previously Presented)* For use in a radio communications system providing communications between an external network and radio units, a radio access network that establishes connections between the external network and users of the radio units, comprising:

a radio network control node for communicating with the external network; and

a radio base station node coupled to the radio network controller configured to provide a radio interface with plural radio units,

wherein at least one of the nodes includes multiple data processing devices, where each established connection is controlled by an associated data processing device, and when a failure is detected in one of the data processing devices such that the failed data processing device is no longer functional and thus can no longer control any established connections, the one node is configured to send a message to another of the nodes identifying one or more active and ongoing radio unit connections affected by the failure,

wherein each connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the radio unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

22. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the other node is configured to release the one or more detected radio unit connections identified in the message.

23. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 22, wherein the other node is configured to maintain one or more radio connections not determined to be affected by the detected failure.

24. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 23, wherein the other node is configured to maintain a signaling link associated with a radio unit affected by the detected failure.

25. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the one node is configured to generate a list identifying the one or more radio units affected by the detected failure and one or more radio unit connections affected by the detected failure, and

wherein the message includes the list.

26. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 25, wherein the list includes identifiers for the one or more radio units affected by the detected failure and for the one or more radio unit connections affected by the detected failure.

27. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein when the list does not include connection identifiers, all connections for a radio subscriber unit are to be released.

28. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the message is a control signaling message.

29. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 28, wherein the message is sent using an existing radio access network control signaling message.

30. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the one node sends a message to the radio unit identifying one or more radio unit connections affected by the failure.

31. *(Original)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein when a failure is detected in the radio unit, the one node is configured to send a message to the other node to release any connections with the radio unit except a control signaling connection.

32. *(Previously Presented)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the node includes a switch coupled to plural data processing devices.

33. *(Previously Presented)* The radio access network in claim 21, wherein the node includes a switch coupled to plural boards, each board containing plural data processing devices.

34. *(Previously Presented)* For use in providing communication connections between an external network and a user of a mobile subscriber unit, a network node communicating with one or more network nodes, comprising:

multiple data processing devices for controlling established connections,

a controller configured to perform the following tasks:

detect a failure in the one of the data processing devices such that the failed data processing device is no longer functional and thus can no longer control any established connections;

determine one or more active and ongoing mobile subscriber unit connections affected by the detected failure; and

send a message to one or more other network nodes identifying the one or more affected mobile subscriber unit connections,

wherein each mobile subscriber unit connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the mobile subscriber unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

35. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the controller is configured (1) to generate a list identifying the one or more mobile subscriber units affected by the detected failure and one or more mobile subscriber unit connections affected by the detected failure and (2) to include the list in the message.

36. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 35, wherein the list includes identifiers for the one or more mobile subscriber units affected by the detected failure and for the one or more mobile subscriber unit connections affected by the detected failure.

37. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the controller is configured to generate a list identifying the one or more mobile subscriber units affected by the detected failure without identifying mobile subscriber unit connections, and wherein the list is used to release all mobile subscriber unit connections associated with the one or more mobile subscriber units in the list.

38. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claims 35 or 37, wherein the controller is configured to indicate in the list whether a signaling connection associated with a mobile subscriber unit affected by the detected failure should be released or maintained.

39. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the node is one of an external network node, another network node, and a mobile subscriber unit.

40. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the node includes:
a switch coupled to multiple data processing devices.

41. *(Previously Presented)* The network node in claim 34, wherein the node includes:
plural processor boards coupled to a switch, each processor board having plural associated data processing devices.

42. *(Original)* An access network comprising the network node claimed in claim 34.

43. *(Previously Presented)* For use in a communication system where connections are established between an external network and users of radio subscriber units by way of a radio access network and each established connection is handled by one of multiple data processing circuits in a radio access node, apparatus comprising:

means for determining one or more active and ongoing radio subscriber unit connections affected by a failure detected in one of the data processing circuits indicating that the data processing circuit is not functioning and thus can no longer handle established connections, and

means for sending a message identifying the one or more affected established radio subscriber unit connections that can no longer be handled by the failed data processing device,

wherein each established radio subscriber unit connection is active and ongoing, is associated with one or more radio access bearers, and carries information between the radio subscriber unit user and another communicating entity coupled to the external network.

44. *(Original)* A system including the apparatus in claim 43, further comprising:

means for releasing the one or more affected radio subscriber unit connections identified in the message.

45. *(Original)* A system including the apparatus in claim 44, further comprising:

means for maintaining one or more radio subscriber connections not determined to be affected by the detected failure.

46-50. Canceled.

51. *(New)* A system in claim 43, wherein the means for sending is located in a radio access network node and the message is intended for a core network node.

52. *(New)* A system in claim 51, wherein the radio access network node is a radio network controller and the core network node is an SGSN.